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Appl. No. 10/021,208  
Response to Final Office Action of July 28, 2003

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 23-37 remain in this application. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled.

On Tuesday, August 19, 2003 a conference call was held to discuss this application. Present on the line were Examiner Alexander Thomas, Inventor Gary Heartsfield, and the undersigned attorney.

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled in order to facilitate prompt issuance of this application as a U.S. patent. The applicant does not necessarily believe that claims 1-22 are unpatentable and may elect to pursue such claims or similar claims in a future related application.

The applicant believes, based on the cited prior art and based on the above-referenced conference call, that the newly submitted claims 23-37 are allowable. None of the cited references disclose a sports mat suitable for tumbling that can be rolled for storage following use without being first flipped over or that can be used after being unrolled without being first flipped over. Furthermore, none of the cited references disclose a mat for tumbling suitable for cushioning athletes with a significant level of stability and having a plurality as cushioning segments each substantially entirely bonded to a flat tumbling layer.

Finally, none of the cited prior art references disclose a method of manufacturing a floor mat for use by tumbling athletes and selectively manipulable into a rolled configuration without requiring the mat to be flipped after use and prior to rolling or after unrolling and prior to use, wherein the method comprising the steps of bonding a substantially entire top surface of a cushion layer to a lower surface of a first layer and segmenting the cushion layer in order to create a plurality of cushion segments.

\* \* \*

The applicant believes that the foregoing remarks/arguments fully respond to all outstanding matters for this application and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the examiner question the allowability of any of the pending claims, the courtesy of a telephonic conference between the examiner and the undersigned attorney at 512-469-6177 is respectfully requested. Alternatively, if the examiner has any questions or concerns that may be addressed by telephone, please do not hesitate to call.

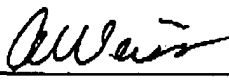
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Should any fees be required under Rules 1.16 – 1.21 for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Thompson & Knight, LLP's Deposit Account No. 20-0821/077662.000008/AAW.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMPSON & KNIGHT LLP

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